University of Idaho
FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES

2003-2004 Meeting #2, Tuesday, September 2, 2003

Present: Wagner (Chair), Bailey (Vice-Chair), Baillargeon, Bitterwolf, Burnett, Chandler, Cloud, Dockrey, Exon, Fairchild, Guenther, Lillard, McGuire, Pikowsky, Pitcher (w/o vote), Reese, Rinker, Stegner, Voxman (w/o vote), Woolston, Young, Zemetra

Absent:

Observers: 3

Call to Order. A quorum being present, Faculty Council Chair Wagner, called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. in the Brink Hall Faculty Lounge.

Minutes. The council accepted the minutes of meeting #22 of the 2002-2003 Faculty Council and meeting #1 of the 2003-2004 Faculty Council, both held on May 6, 2003, as distributed.

Chair's Report. Chair Wagner welcomed the Faculty Council to its second meeting and introduced the new members of the council and the Interim Secretary of the Faculty, Bill Voxman. He thanked Professor Bitterwolf for his stellar work last year as FC chair. Chair Wagner announced his intent to create an Ad Hoc Committee to explore the restructuring of the FC executive council. Professor Bitterwolf will chair this committee. Councilors Bailey, Dockrey, and Pikowsky volunteered to serve on the committee. Chair Wagner noted that the council will have an interesting year ahead of it, and most likely will need to deal with UI fiscal issues and perhaps closures of some programs.

Provost's Report. Provost Pitcher gave some preliminary information about fall enrollment. Though official 10th day figures are not yet available, the Provost indicated there appears to be a 3% overall growth. Most growth has occurred at the upper-division and graduate levels. The Provost then outlined the substantial changes made in the reorganization of various administrative committees. The reorganization has resulted in the disbandment of both the Administrative Council and the Dean's Council, the restructuring of the Executive Council, and the creation of a new University Council with three sub-committees: the Academic Affairs Committee, the Finance and Business Affairs Committee, and the External Affairs Committee. Membership for these bodies includes some line administrators; representation from faculty, students, and staff; and key support staff. The Provost said the creation of these committees will lead to a more effective, inclusive and deliberative process for decision making. Most of the work will be done at the sub-committee level with recommendations going to the full University Council, and eventually to the Executive Council. In response to a councilor's question, the Provost said that the Institute Directors will be well represented by Chuck Hatch on the new committees and the Directors would be invited to attend committee meetings when issues concerning them were on the agenda. Vice-Chair Bailey pointed out that the new structure will facilitate tracking of projects and issues. In response to a question from Councilor Pikowsky, the Provost said that Dean Ron Force will be a member of the Academic Affairs subcommittee. Councilor Bitterwolf commented that the committee restructuring would have been difficult to achieve without the extraordinary cooperation of the central administration and he was grateful for their support. Concern was expressed about how the new committees would mesh with past practices and existing committees. Chair Wagner responded that the question of overlap had been discussed, and he believes that the various committee roles will be worked out satisfactorily over time. Provost Pitcher noted that no changes were contemplated to eliminate or change current FC standing committees. However, future practice will determine the relationships between the new and the existing committees in terms of responsibilities and decision processes. It was emphasized that the restructuring is in an experimental stage and is subject to future modification when deemed appropriate. Responding to Councilor Lillard’s question regarding the Financial Emergency Committee's status, Provost Pitcher indicated that it is likely that its role will be subsumed by the new committees.

Faculty Secretary's Annual Report. Interim Faculty Secretary Voxman provided the council with an annual report prepared by last year's Faculty Secretary Pete Haggart outlining the activities of the FC during the previous academic year. The report shows the action(s) taken on each agenda item, as well as outlining other decisions requiring a vote, made by the council. The report also outlines the subject matter of presentations made to the council during the course of the year.

Committee on Committees Report. The Committee on Committees report was presented by Secretary Voxman. It consists of an updated report on committee assignments made by Voxman and Chair Wagner since the council's last meeting. The committee assignments were accepted by the council without comment. Chair Wagner announced that there will be an organizational luncheon for the chairs of the various FC committees in the near future.
Confirmation of the Secretary to the Faculty Council. It was moved and seconded (McGuire, Dockrey) that Bill Voxman be confirmed as Secretary to the Faculty Council for the 2003-2004 academic year. Ignoring statements from the nominee, the council gave unanimous approval to the motion.

Election to the Institutional Planning and Budget Committee. It was moved and seconded (Bailey, Fairchild) that Jeff Young, a member of the council class of 2006, be nominated to serve on the Institutional Planning and Budget Committee. Young was elected unanimously.

Election to the Campus Planning Committee. Three councilors from the council class of 2006, Exon, Woolston, and Zemetra were nominated to serve on the Campus Planning Committee. Councilor Woolston was elected by ballot.

Health Insurance Update. The remainder of the meeting consisted of presentations by Pat Sturko, Assistant Vice-President for Human Resources and Linda Peavey, Director of Benefit Services, regarding the new UI health insurance policies. This year is the first time in 21 years that there has been a change in health insurance providers and some contract details about the new plan are still being worked out. Various handouts were provided to council members. Sturko and Peavey expressed general satisfaction with the new plan, which includes performance guarantees and substantial savings in some areas. In general, they have experienced excellent cooperation with the new provider, Blue Cross of Idaho. The current major area of concern centers on working out an agreement with local vision care providers. Sturko and Peavey are optimistic this will be achieved in the near future. They described briefly (but favorably) dental and mental health coverages, and discussed the rationale underlying the new prescription drug policies and, in particular, mail order prescription drugs. They commented that UI prescription drug costs have been increasing at a rate of 20-25% a year, substantially higher than the national norm. As the bewitching hour of 5:00 p.m. approached, the Chair suggested that Sturko and Peavey return at another time for a more extensive discussion of the new insurance plan. Information about the new health insurance plan can be obtained by contacting Linda Peavey or at www.uidaho.edu/benefits.

Chair Wagner reminded the council that Interim President Michael will attend the next council meeting, Tuesday, September 9, and that council members should come prepared with questions for the President.

Adjournment. It was moved and seconded (Lillard, Guenthner) to adjourn. The motion was adopted unanimously and with an unusually resounding blow of the gavel, Chair Wagner adjourned the meeting at 5:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Voxman
Interim Secretary of the Faculty Council